

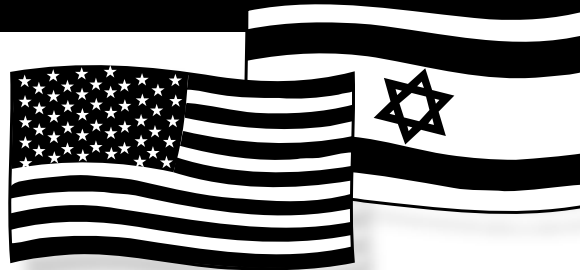
America and Israel. Shared values. Shared enemies.

BE PATRIOTIC. Not just because America is a *malchut shel chesed*, a compassionate country. Or because she has allowed Jews to thrive socially and economically as never before. But because America and the people of Israel share values.

Values like human dignity. Freedom from persecution. Tolerance. Democracy. Equality before the law. Supporting the weak, the downtrodden, the disabled. Welcoming the persecuted. And through science and innovation making God's world a better place to live. Americans have laid down their lives for these essential Jewish and Torah values. And in the aftermath of 9/11 we continue to do so.

These values are also at the foundation of the State of Israel. And that's why Jews are patriots and proud Americans. And as Israel marks its 54th year, that's why Jews are proud to be Zionists.

It is no wonder that since 9/11 America and Israel share the same enemy – Islamic terrorism. The war that America



fights today, after all, is in defense of the American way of life; as Israel struggles with the same enemy who seek to destroy her and her Jewish character.

Since 9/11, countless Americans, like so many Israelis, have experienced the traumatic after-effects of vicious terror attacks. Depression. Sleeplessness. Anxiety. Fearfulness. And more.

As only a compassionate nation would do, America is providing a variety of educational, awareness, and support services for all Americans. This includes the Jewish community, with its special sensitivity to the consequences of worldwide terrorism, and its large New York City population. What better illustration of America and Israel's shared values?

In the coming weeks, dozens of participating synagogues and *yeshivot*, in

five major communities in the New York metropolitan area, will be taking up the theme of "Patriotism and Zionism in Peace and War." They will feature special programs, *Shabbat* scholars-in-residence, sermons and *shiurim*, community lectures, study and discussion groups, classroom study units, and *Shabbat* table dialogues.

Utilizing a variety of specially prepared educational, discussion, and informational materials, we hope to sensitize American Jews to the *halachic* mandate to be patriotic Americans, as well as staunch supporters of both the State and land of Israel, both in peace and in war. At all times. But especially now. And to help as many people as we can to properly address the stresses and traumas of these very difficult days.

Pray for the United States of America and for Israel. For our leaders and for those who serve in our armed forces. At *Shabbat* and *Yomtov* services. On *Yom Ha-atzmaut* and on the Fourth of July .

And in your heart all year long.

PATRIOTISM דרשו את שלום העיר

Be a better person. Be a better Jew.

THE S. DANIEL ABRAHAM AND IRA L. RENNERT TORAH ETHICS PROJECT OF THE ORTHODOX CAUCUS

To participate in this program or bring it to your community or institution, call or write. Visit our website to download information and educational materials from the Lili & William Goldberg Resource Library for Ethical Education.

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